

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 102

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP2002095686A; the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Striano or Dunfee; and the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yewer; are overcome by the amendments to claim 1.

In claim 1, it is clarified that a pelvic fixed belt has a center portion overlapping with a center portion of the lumbar fixed belt and sewn together thereat, an upper edge and a lower edge, wherein the upper edge of the pelvic fixed belt is configured to continuously overlap the lumbar fixed belt, and the pelvic fixed belt is fitted substantially in parallel along a pelvic angle of inclination of the human body from the lumbodorsal region toward the lumboabdominal region so that the lower edge of the pelvic fixed belt extends below the lumbar fixed belt in a non-overlap relationship with the lumbar fixed belt.

In JP'686A, the belt which is being taken as being the claimed pelvic fixed belt has upper and lower edges neither of which overlap the lumbar fixed belt. In Striano, the pelvic belts 18, 20 never extend below the posterior shell 14, and thus cannot meet the requirements of claim 1 as amended. In Dunfee, the lumbar pelvic belt 152 is in constant overlap with the pelvic belt 166 so that the lower edge of the lumbar pelvic belt 152 cannot meet the requirements of claim 1 as amended. Finally, Yewer is such that the pelvic belts 18, 20 are such that both the upper and lower edges overlap the lumbar belts 22, 24, and thus fail to meet the requirements of claim 1 as amended.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 are found in the drawings - see particularly Figs. 2, 3, 4A and 4B.

New Claims

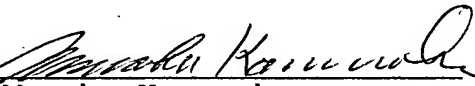
New claims 5-9 have been added in this response. These claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the reason that they define subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested by said art. Support for the claimed subject matter can be found in the drawings and originally filed specification taken as whole.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as they have been amended are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of originally presented claims 1-4 along with newly presented claims 5-9 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A replacement sheet carrying Fig. 5 is submitted with this response. The legend "PRIOR ART" has been added thereto thus overcoming the objection raised in paragraph #3 of this Office Action.